

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03036 111041Z

21

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4462

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3036

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ZA RH

SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA REACTS TO TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL

REF: LUSAKA 3013 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO MORNING NOVEMBER 11 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO STATE HOUSE DENIAL THAT TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL OF NOVEMBER 9 REFLECTED PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S VIEW. EDITORIAL (REFTEL) CRITICIZED ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS FOR INSISTING ON MAJORITY RULE IN 12 MONTHS, ARGUING THAT SPECIFIC DATE IS NOT IMPORTANT. IMPORTANT THING IS TO AGREE ON A DATE WITH SMITH, EVEN IF IT IS 24 MONTHS, AND THEN WORK TOGETHER TO INSURE THAT MAJORITY RULE IS EFFECTIVELY SECURED IN THAT INTERVAL. "FRONTLINE STATES SHOULD BE CALLED UPON TO USE THEIR POSITION TO SEE THAT NO ONE UPSETS THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS." "IF THE CONFERENCE BREAKS DOWN ON THE DATE ISSUE, IT WILL CRUMBLE OVER A STUPID
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03036 111041Z

THING." STATE HOUSE DENIAL REFERRED TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S

LATEST NEWSWEEK AS REFLECTING HIS VIEWS. IN THIS INTERVIEW PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "SMITH IS A REBEL AGAINST HUMANITY, AND HE SHOULD GO TO GENEVA TO GIVE UP COMPLETELY FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE IN ZIMBABWE." STATE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT OPINIONS GIVEN IN ZAMBIAN NEWSPAPERS ARE REFLECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL EDITORS.

COMMENT: IT IS A RARE OCCURENCE TO SEE THE STATE HOUSE PUBLICLY CORRECTING OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN TIMES OF ZAMBIA (NONIMALLY A UNIP PAPER), BUT IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. THE VIGOROUS DENIAL OF THE TIMES EDITORIAL SHOULD BE READ AS REFLECTING PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S CONCERN THAT ZAMBIA BE PORTRAYED AS BEING OUT OF STEP WITH THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS AND THE OTHER FRONTLINE STATES IN PRESSING FOR LESS THAN MAXIMUM DEMANDS. LOW

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